

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 030572

73

ORIGIN EUR-12

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66011

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPE:JTMCCARTH Y:CC

APPROVED BY:EUR/RPE:JTMCCARTH Y

----- 105678

R 070321Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 030572

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO SECSTATE INFO SAN JOSE

DTG O R 052040Z FEB 76

FM PANAMA

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 0877

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PN

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: A) 75 STATE 303837; B) STATE 020861 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS MET WITH AGRICULTURE VICE-MINISTER GUSTAVO GONZALEZ FEB 5 TO DISCUSS VICE-MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JANUARY. GONZALEZ TALKED ABOUT HIS VISIT AT LENGTH, PRESENTING A SIMILAR SUMMARY TO THAT OUTLINED IN REF (B). IN RESPONSE TO PRESENTATION DRAWN FROM REF (B), VICE-MINISTER GONZALEZ INDICATED THAT PANAMA HAD BEEN CONSIDERING EXPORTING MEAT TO THE EC FOR SOME TIME, BUT THAT SEVERE LOGISTICS PROBLEMS MADE SUCH ACTION UNFEASIBLE UNLESS CARRIED OUT INCONJUNCTION WITH OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. GOP AND MEAT EXPORTERS HAVE RECEIVED NO CONTACTS FROM EC MEAT IMPORTERS THUS FAR. GONZALEZ WAS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT SHIPMENTS BY PANAMA AND COSTA RICA TO THE EC.

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2. WHEN THE SUBJECT OF PANAMA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 1976 VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM WAS RAISED, GONZALEZ REITERATED THAT BASE FORMULA WAS DISADVANTAGEOUS TO PANAMA. HE EXPECTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD RECOGNIZE PANAMA'S NEED TO UTILIZE ITS LARGE QUANTITIES OF MARGINAL AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR GRAZING IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. COMMENT: GONZALEZ CLEARLY SKEPTICAL THAT SALES TO EC CAN HELP WITH PANAMANIAN PROBLEM. HE INDICATED THAT PANAMA HOPED TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN THE MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM ON A BASIS WHICH IS FAIR AND EQUITABLE TO BOTH SIDES.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT REF B TO SAN JOSE FOR AGATT.  
GONZALEZ  
UNQUOTE  
SISCO

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPORTS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MEATS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Film Number:** D760048-0118  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
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